

Birds of a Feather Fest

Thursday, February 7, 2019

8:00am – 5:00pm

Big trip to Circle B-Bar

Guide: Greg Miller & David & Dee Simpson

Cost: \$75/person (lunch provided) – Limit 50 registrants

Transportation: Bus Service Included – Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: Join legendary birders Greg Miller and David & Dee Simpson on a fantastic journey to Lakeland. This trip will begin at the interactive visitors center and then journey on to some of the more than 6 miles of trails that the park has to offer.

About the Park: More than 1200 acres play host to a huge variety of bird species. A converted cattle ranch - Circle B Bar Reserve is now one of the best birding spots in Central Florida. On the trails at the reserve, you're likely to spot Bald Eagles, White and Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbills, Sandhill Cranes and much more. Additionally Circle B Bar is known for its diverse wildlife population. Along with alligators, you might spot bobcats, river otter and even wild hogs.

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

Friday, February 8, 2019

5:00am – 2:30pm

Sunrise Bird Photography Field Trip to Orlando Wetlands Park

Guide: Jason Giraulo

Cost: \$75/person (lunch provided) – Limit 15 registrants

Transportation: Transportation Provided - Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: Break out your long lens and join wildlife photographer and Birds of a Feather Fest founder Jason Giraulo for an intensive photo workshop. This workshop will help you take your images to the next level, provide advice on gear, and help with storytelling in your images. Then, included in the class cost, join Jason on Saturday at 9am, to learn how to post-process your images. (see Saturday's Class for a full description)

About the Park: More than 220 bird species, 63 butterfly species, reptiles and mammals call Orlando Wetlands Park their home. Wading birds like Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, White Egret, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis are common here year around. Purple Gallinule as well as Common Gallinule, Limpkins, Least Bittern and American Bittern can also be found throughout the park. Raptors like Red-shouldered Hawks, Ospreys, Barred Owls and Bald Eagles hunt and nest within the park. Occasionally Crested Caracara, Short-tailed Hawk, and Snail Kites are seen. Flocks of 1000's of Tree Swallows migrating in late fall and early spring can be found feeding and roosting in the Wetlands. Other rarities like Vermilion Flycatcher, Groove-billed Ani, White-faced Ibis have been spotted at this wonderful place.

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

6:00am – 4:00pm

Big Trip for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Scrub Jays

Guide: David & Dee Simpson

Cost: \$75/person (lunch provided) – Limit 15 registrants

Transportation: Bus – Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: Travel the Ocala National Forest looking for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. On this trip you'll be traveling through the back roads and wooded trails that are home to the largest Floridian population of this bird. In addition, you'll likely see the endangered Florida Scrub Jay, Bachman's Sparrow, Bald Eagle and American Kestrel.

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

7:00am – 5:00pm

Shorebirds and Gulls 3 Ways

Guide: David Hartgrove & Michael Brothers

Cost: \$75/person (lunch provided) – Limit 15 registrants

Transportation: Bus - Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: Spend the whole day enjoying the abundant shorebirds and gulls that call East Central Florida home during the winter. This big trip begins at Matanzas Inlet where you'll likely spot huge flocks of Black Skimmers, terns, plovers and gulls, then after a lunch break, head to the Volusia County Dump for an afternoon of Gulls and Raptors, then head to the world famous Frank Rendon Park for spotting gulls as they fly in and roost for the evening.

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

7:00am – 11:00am

Walk at Pelicer Creek Conservation Area

Guide: Greg Miller

Cost: \$20/person – Limit 20 registrants

Transportation: Carpool – Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip:

About the Park: Walk along the powerlines, through the sparrow-rich Pelicer Creek Conservation area near Princess Place Preserve. This walk will focus on some of the most difficult to identify species – sparrows. Possible species seen here include Bachman's Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow along with other passerines such as Eastern Towhee, Eastern Phoebe, American Goldfinch, Brown Creeper, etc.

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

7:00am – 11:00am

Birding Princess Place

Guide: Joe & Judie Dziak

Cost: \$20/person – Limit 20 registrants

Transportation: Carpool – Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: Follow local park experts Joe & Judie on a trip through the various ecosystems of this Jewel of Flagler County. You'll cover uplands and wetlands, hardwood hammock and more. On this trip you'll likely encounter several species of woodpeckers, raptors, shorebirds and wading birds. Experience some of the best local birding in Flagler County!

About the Park: *Once home to a Russian prince and princess, this preserve on the Matanzas River offers freshwater creek, salt marsh, and woodland habitats. Princess Place Preserve is home to 7 of the 8 species of Woodpecker that occur in Florida, one of the oldest Bald Eagles Nest's in Florida and so much more.*

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

11:30am - 1:00pm

Birds of a Feather Fest Presents: Plastics in the Environment

Guide: Dr. Maia McGuire

Cost: FREE – Open to the Public

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Class: Each time you wash your face or brush your teeth, you just may be adding microscopic bits of plastic into the aquatic environment. These tiny particles never biodegrade and are accidentally eaten by marine life, threatening their health. Toxins in the environment are attracted to and can easily adhere to their surface. Dr. McGuire will explain the causes and offer ideas for combating micro-plastics in the environment.

About the instructor:

Please wear appropriate clothing, it may be cool in the classroom.

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Birds of a Feather Fest Presents: Greg Miller - The DIY Big Year

Guide: Greg Miller

Cost: FREE – Open to the public

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Class: Have you ever wanted to do a Big Year but you don't have the time or money to do it? Or maybe you have no desire to go after a world record, but you would like to set your own personal record. Where do you go? How do you start planning? Greg Miller has birded in all 50 states and much of Canada during his 50 years of birding. In 1998 Greg traveled 130,000 miles to try to see as many species of birds in one calendar year as possible. He passed 700 species -- an achievement many birders aspire to in a lifetime. His accomplishment, immortalized in *The Big Year*, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Mark Obmascik, and the full-length motion picture inspired by the book, is a birder's must have. Learn Greg's tips for your next big adventure!

Please wear appropriate clothing, it may be cool in the classroom.

6:30pm – 8:30pm

An Evening with David Ringer - Protecting Birds Together, Today and Tomorrow

Speaker: David Ringer

Cost: Free

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Keynote: Join National Audubon Society Chief Network Officer David Ringer for an evening discussing the birds we love, our impact on them and how we can work together to protect their future. This is sure to be an entertaining, informative and inspiring evening.

About the Speaker: As Audubon's first Chief Network Officer, David J. Ringer oversees the health, vitality, capacity, diversity, and strength of Audubon's vast distributed network. That network includes hundreds of Audubon chapters, more than 40 Audubon nature centers, thousands of deeply committed advocates and volunteers, and a wide range of partner organizations. He leads Audubon's Bird-Friendly Communities program, which engages people in practical, joyful solutions to protect birds and special places and to make communities healthier for people too. He is a leader in Audubon's equity, diversity, and inclusion work, and he oversees Audubon's public relations and communications team.

Ringer previously served as Audubon's national communications director, overseeing communications, public relations, and social media, and before that as Audubon's communications director for the Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi Flyway. He was Audubon's front-line PR manager in Louisiana during the 2010 BP oil disaster.

Before joining the Audubon staff, Ringer provided a wide variety of communications and media for NGOs around the world, an experience that took him to more than 25 countries on six continents. He has also worked as a web developer and a biological field technician. Ringer writes about bird taxonomy and systematics and other natural history topics. His love of birds began in childhood, and his connection to Audubon started in high school, when he joined the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society of Springfield, Missouri.

Please wear appropriate clothing, it may be cool in the room.

Saturday, February 9, 2019

6:00am – 4:00pm

Big Trip to Sweetwater Wetlands

Guide: Greg Miller & David Hartgrove

Cost: \$75/person (lunch provided) – Limit 40 registrants

Transportation: Bus Service Provided – Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: *Sweetwater Wetlands Park is not only a place to connect with nature, it's a way to protect our environment. The park, which consists of more than 125 acres of wetlands and ponds, was created to improve the water quality of wetlands in Paynes Prairie and the Floridan Aquifer. Now a thriving habitat, Sweetwater Wetlands Park is filled with vast numbers of plants and animals, including birds, butterflies, alligators and Florida cracker horses. At the park, you can walk more than 3.5 miles of crushed gravel trails and boardwalks, experience the lush landscape from viewing platforms, and learn about the habitat.*

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

6:00am – 6:00pm

Flagler Birding Big Day

Guide: David & Dee Simpson

Cost: \$75/person – Limit 12 registrants

Transportation: Van Provided – Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: Ever wanted to do a Big Year just like the movie? No time? Why not do a Big Day! Join expert Florida Birders David & Dee Simpson on this whirlwind, and nonstop tour around Flagler County to see how many species of birds you can identify in a single day. Not for the faint of heart, this trip will certainly help your Flagler County life list grow and will be an unforgettable experience.

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

8:00am – 2:00pm

Free Beginner Bird Walks at Linear Park

Guides: Flagler Audubon Society

Cost: Free – Pre Registration Not Required

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center - Walks will be at 8, 10, 12, 2 pm

About the Walk: Learn the basics of birding in this free, family friendly trip through Linear Park. View birds such as Cardinals, Grackles, Vultures, Red Shouldered Hawks and even Bald Eagles along the trail.

About the Park: Situated between the east and westbound lanes of Palm Coast Parkway, this incredible park is one of the most active and interesting parks to bird.

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

9:00am – 12:00pm

Photography Post Processing

Guide: Jason Girauro

Cost: \$20/Person – FREE if you attended the Photography Field Workshop – Limit 20 Additional Registrants

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Class: The photo process isn't finished when you go "Click" with the camera. Learn how to finish your images and take the next steps in your photography. This class will cover: Photo Organization techniques in Lightroom and Lightroom CC, Post Processing using Lightroom and Photoshop, and tips on the best software plugins and alternatives to get you printing and sharing faster all while saving time and money!

Please wear appropriate clothing, it may be cool in the classroom.

10:00am - 10:30am

PeaCee's Classes on the go – Bird ID

Guides: Mary Kronenberg

Cost: Free

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Class: Learn the basics of bird identification in this short, free class. Flagler Audubon members will help you remember the tips you need to know to help identify a variety of different local bird species.

Please wear appropriate clothing, it may be cool in the classroom.

11:00am - 11:30am

PeaCee's Classes on the go – Florida's Fire Ecology

Guides: Hannah Edmiston

Cost: Free

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Class: Join Hannah Edmiston as she explains Florida's Fire Ecology and why it's so important to our wildlife here.

Please wear appropriate clothing, it may be cool in the classroom.

1:00pm - 1:30pm

PeaCee's Classes on the go – Gopher Tortoises

Guides: Denise Bevan

Cost: Free

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Class: Join Gopher Tortoise superfan Denise Bevan as she talks about the incredible life of the Gopher Tortoise and why they are considered a keystone species.

Please wear appropriate clothing, it may be cool in the classroom.

2:00pm - 2:30pm

PeaCee's Classes on the go – Backyard Birding

Guides: Flagler Audubon Society

Cost: Free

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Class: Sometimes the best place to bird is your own backyard. This quick class will show you how to get up and birding in your own backyard. Learn how to attract birds, what to plant or feed and why water is the most important addition to any backyard sanctuary.

Please wear appropriate clothing, it may be cool in the classroom.

3:00pm - 3:30pm

PeaCee's Classes on the go - Florida's Water

Guides: Flagler Audubon Society

Cost: Free

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Class: Water water everywhere and not a drop to drink? Learn why protecting Florida's water is so critical to the future of our state, how we're protecting it and what you can do to help.

Please wear appropriate clothing, it may be cool in the classroom.

6:30pm – 8:30pm

Meet and Greet the Experts at The Palm Coast Community Center

Cost: Free – Lite Bites Provided

Transportation: Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Event: Enjoy some tasty treats, meet our fantastic guides and mingle with fellow birders at the Palm Coast Community Center. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres served.

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Owl Prowl on the St. Joe Walkway and Waterfront Park

Guide: Jason Giraulo

Cost: \$20/Person – Limit 20 registrants

Transportation: Carpool - Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: Take a walk on the wild-side after dark. This easy hike is perfect for anyone interested in learning more about owls and other creatures of the night.

About the Park: The St. Johns Walkway is proudly recognized as part of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trails. Situated along the Intracoastal Waterway, this beautiful trail plays host to a huge variety of bird species. Nearly any day of the year, at any time, great birding can be found along the trail. Waterfront Park is one of Palm Coast's newer parks. This jewel begins at a beautiful park and then winds along to meet the St. Joe Walkway along the Intracoastal Waterway. With woods that come to life during fall and spring migration, and a large variety of wading and water birds, Waterfront Park is not to be missed.

Please wear appropriate clothing and close-toed shoes. Bring insect repellent and a flashlight.

Sunday, February 10, 2019

6:00am – 4:00pm

Big Trip to Merritt Island

Guide: Greg Miller

Cost: \$75/person (lunch provided) – Limit 20 registrants

Transportation: Bus Service Included – Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: *Merritt Island NWR is known for its abundant birdlife with over 330 species and is a major destination for birders throughout the world. Hundreds of thousands of migratory birds use the refuge as a temporary rest stop or spend the entire winter season in refuge impoundments. See for yourself why Merritt Island NWR is famous in the birding community.*

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

7:00am – 10:00am

Walk at Palm Coast Spray fields

Guide: David & Dee Simpson

Cost: \$20/person – Limit 20 registrants

Transportation: Carpool – Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: *A Birds of a Feather Fest Tradition! Get a behind the scenes peek at the City of Palm Coast rapid infiltration basin (RIB) for utility wastewater disposal. The basin system imitates an ephemeral wetland system which is a huge attractant for wading and marsh species. Be one of the unique few to visit this hidden birding treasure.*

About the Park:

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

10:00am – 1:00pm

Photography Eco-Boat Tour

Guide: Ripple Effect Eco Tours

Cost: \$75/person – Limit 6 registrants

Transportation: Carpool – Meet at the Palm Coast Community Center

About the Trip: *NEW! Take your camera over the water for truly unique views of Florida Wildlife. Included in the price is admission to the Marineland Dolphin Adventure.*

Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.